

Service

From educational programs and events that reach over 150,000 people a year, to a clinic that treats more than 800 injured and sick raptors, to a Web site that has over 25,000 visitors a month, The Raptor Center provides a variety of services to the world community. All have one goal: to compel people to join us in our mission to insure the health of raptors and the world we share.



Vet school for VIPs
Staff veterinarian Juli Ponder discussed the condition of a bald eagle suffering from lead poisoning with Rep. Doug Lindgren of Bagley, Minn., Elaine Wyatt, associate director, Rep. Dean Urdahl of Grove City, Minn., and Jan Williams, executive assistant to the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine during a "Vet School for VIPs" event in February 2003.



Earth Day release
Rochester Mayor Ardell F. Brede prepared to release a red-tailed hawk as part of Quarry Hill Nature Center's 30-year anniversary and Earth Day Celebration in April 2003.



September 11 memorial event
White Bear Lake police officer Duane Siedschlag prepared to release a bald eagle at a Sept. 11 memorial event at the White Bear Lake VFW in September 2002. A donation from Lang Builders, Inc., and Progressive Concrete & Masonry helped cover the costs of the eagle's care.

Hawk found shot is returned to Marshall
Dr. Scott Kuecker, a 1992 graduate of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, returned a red-tailed hawk to the wild in August 2002. Dr. Kuecker had provided emergency care for the hawk and arranged for its transport to The Raptor Center after it was found shot in Marshall, Minn.



Bird release events
TRC's annual Spring and Fall Bird Releases draw thousands of people of all ages. Cosponsored by Three Rivers Park District, the events include educational displays, children's activities – and, of course, the release of rehabilitated birds of prey.

Reaching out
Presentations with live raptors are the hallmark of TRC's education program. This boy and his mom discovered that his new cochlear implant helped him to hear the sounds of birds.



The Raptor Center

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College of Veterinary Medicine



To insure the health of raptors and the world we share through teaching, research, and service.

2003 Annual Report

From the Staff



Our mission is to insure the health of raptors and the world we share through teaching, research, and service.



If there was a defining moment for The Raptor Center (TRC) in the past year, it would have to be the sudden appearance and impact of West Nile virus in Midwestern birds, including raptors. It became clear to us how important it is to have a fully equipped medical facility and world-class staff to deal with major threats to birds, now and in the future.

We want to personally thank our donors for their immediate and generous support to help us mitigate the significant financial demands on TRC resources to treat sick birds while supplying information and assistance to zoos, nature centers, bird owners, and bird lovers all over the country.

As importantly, we spent the year strengthening our leadership team and defining TRC's vision for the next five years. By examining our organization's strengths, past accomplishments, and current challenges, our direction became clear.

TRC will continue to be a pioneer in avian medicine and research. In the immediate future, our work will focus on the area of DNA vaccine technology, first by completing the testing and licensing of an avian-specific West Nile virus vaccine developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most significantly, the vaccine will be used to protect endangered birds in captive breeding programs all over the world. Using what we learn from this process, we will turn our efforts toward vaccines for herpes virus and aspergillosis in future years. Like our past work in avian orthopedics and anesthesia, our focus will be raptors, but the results will have broad implications for improving the health of all birds. This work may have implications for human medicine as well.

Our community outreach activities will compel participants to insure the health of raptors and the world we share. Through the rehabilitation and release of wild raptors, professional and community education programs, classroom curriculum paired with resource kits, and our Web site, TRC's work will focus on effectively encouraging people to preserve the world we share for the benefit of all its inhabitants.

The Raptor Center's international veterinary residency program will produce leaders in avian conservation medicine. TRC plans to enhance its international residency program by recruiting exceptional veterinarians from environmentally challenged regions of the world and training them in medical techniques and business management skills, with the expectation that they will return to their native countries to pursue careers in avian conservation medicine.

In order to accomplish these important initiatives, we will also focus our attention on **generating adequate resources to support our mission and insuring that our key constituents are informed of and value our work.**

Thanks to the generous support of our members and volunteers and the work of our exceptional staff, we can look back on the past year with pride. We have made great strides in our effort to enhance The Raptor Center. Thank you for supporting our important work.

We welcome you to call or visit to share your thoughts and ideas.

Sincerely,
 Patrick T. Redig, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Director
 Elaine M. Wyatt
Associate Director

The Raptor Center Staff

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Dr. Julia Ponder, staff veterinarian
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Jen Vieth, assistant curator of birds
Arnaud Van Wettere, veterinary resident
Dawne Brown White, development director

Many other valuable staff members are employed on a part-time basis.

Teaching

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

Funding



Japanese visitors
Dr. Julia Ponder, staff veterinarian, observed as veterinary school student **Matsumi Sasaki** and veterinarian **Momoko Hoshino** worked together to bandage a hawk's foot. The visitors were part of a group of 20 veterinary professionals from Japan who traveled to TRC for a weeklong immersion course in raptor medicine, surgery, and rehabilitation.

Ph.D. awarded
In November 2002, Dr. Jaילה Abu, a veterinarian from Malaysia, completed her Ph.D. and a six-year residency at TRC. Her research explored the use of bone grafts in conjunction with external fixators to repair fractures in birds. Jaילה has now returned to her position as a faculty member in veterinary clinical sciences at University Putra Malaysia.



In addition to hands-on training of veterinarians, staff members share their specialized knowledge through a myriad of mediums from phone consultations to the publication of papers and books to the presentation of lectures and seminars nationwide. This past year's publications included "Falconiformes (Vultures, Hawks, Falcons, Secretary Bird)," a chapter by TRC Director Dr. Redig, published in the 2003 edition of *Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine*, and a chapter by Lori Arent, clinic manager, in *Clinical Anatomy for Veterinary Technicians*.

In August 2002, TRC Director Dr. Pat Redig was presented with the Conservation Award "for lifelong dedication to improve the welfare of the avian population" at the Association of Avian Veterinarians annual conference, where he conducts annual seminars on avian ophthalmics.

Research



Testing a groundbreaking vaccine
As certified veterinary technician **Greg Hanson** held the bird, TRC Director **Dr. Pat Redig** gave the first injection of a new avian West Nile virus vaccine to a red-tailed hawk. Two TV news crews recorded the event.

We are pleased to list the individuals, companies, and organizations that contributed \$100 or more during fiscal year 2003 (July 1, 2002, to June 31, 2003). We regret that space limits us to listing only those who have contributed that amount. Every donor is important to us, and your continuing support makes our work possible.

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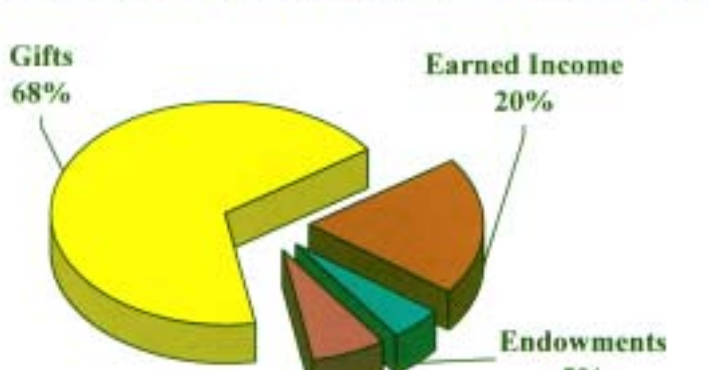
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